

Appl. No. 10/788,577
Amdt. Dated April 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 29, 2006

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 13, canceled claim 2, added new claims 14-16, and kept claims 2-6 unchanged.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamaru et al., JP 2001-281654, in view of Iijima, US Patent No. 6,906,767.

In response to the rejection, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 13, and canceled claim 2. Applicant hereby respectfully traverses this rejection thereof.

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites in part:

“...a backlight module having a light source, a light guide plate, a reflector, and a quarter-wave plate, ... and at least one of the following elements: a plurality of V-shaped grooves in a top surface of the light guide plate; and a diffuser positioned on top of the light guide plate; and

a liquid crystal panel having a reflective polarizing element, the liquid crystal panel being located on the backlight module, and the reflective polarizing element facing a top surface of the light guide plate.” (Emphasis added.)

Claim 13, as currently amended, recites in part:

“...a reflective polarizing element located above the light guide plate; and at least one of the following elements:

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a plurality of V-shaped grooves in a top surface of the light guide plate; and

a diffuser positioned on top of the light guide plate, such a diffuser being interposed between the light guide plate and the reflective polarizing element.” (Emphasis added.)

Nakamura et al., the base reference, indicates that the problem to be solved by the reference is “to realize functions of a polarized light separation plate and a light-transmitting body...only by the light transmitting body...”. Nakamura et al provides that the solution involves “forming fine projecting and recessing parts... on the light-emitting surface of the light-transmitting body.” In contradistinction, by this amendment, claims 1 and 13 each clearly require a reflecting polarizing element that is separate from the light guide body, the top surface of the light guide plate having a different structure and functionality than that of a reflecting polarizing element; and/or the reflecting polarizing element being distinctly spaced and thus separate from the light guide plate.

To modify Nakamura et al. to provide either of these elements and, moreover, to provide a reflecting polarizing element not incorporated into the light guide plate would destroy the stated intended purpose (MPEP 2143.01, Part V) of Nakamura et al of realizing the function of both “a polarized light separation plate and a light-transmitting body...only by the light transmitting body...”. As provided in amended claims 1 and 13, the polarized light function can't be achieved by the light transmitting body and/or the reflecting polarizing element must clearly be distinct therefrom. Thus, it would not have been obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) to have modified Nakamura et al, whether taken alone or in combination with another cited

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reference, i.e., Iijima, to arrive at the liquid crystal display defined in either of amended claims 1 and 13.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 13 are submitted to be unobvious and patentable over Nakamaru et al. in view of Iijima. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1 and 13 are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is to maintain the above rejection, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to provide an analysis under 35 USC 103(a), in line with the guidance afforded at MPEP 2143.01, Part V, as to the legality of the modification.

Claims 3-6 directly or indirectly depend from independent claim 1 and, therefore, should also be allowable.

New claims 14-16

New claims 14-16 have been added hereby to further protect the patentable subject matter associated with the present invention. Applicant submits that the subject matter set forth in such claims is supported, e.g., by the Figures, as originally filed. Further, Applicant submits that none of the cited art, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every claimed element of claims 14-16.

New claim 14 recites in part:

“...a light guide plate interposed between the reflective polarizing element and the quarter-wave plate, the light guide plate having a top

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surface facing and spaced from the reflective polarizing element..."

(Emphasis added.)

Applicant submits that Nakamura et al., whether taken alone or in combination with any of the other cited references, fails to teach, disclose, or suggest the present liquid crystal display, as set forth in new claim 14.

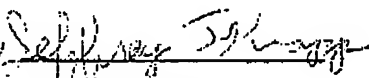
Therefore, claim 14 and its dependent claims 15-16 are submitted to be novel, unobvious and patentable over Nakamura et al. or any of the other cited references, e.g., Iijima, taken alone or in combination, under both 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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